--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1952-54 ---

The following twenty cigarette cancellation series is pure “Rock City / Carreras” beginning in 1952 on the cancellations for **Black Cat** cigarettes. These early cancellations use a reverse counting code system starting at **Z** which is **1**, and running backwards to **O** which is **12**, reading as follows:

Z = 1	**W = 4**	**T = 7**	**Q = 10**
Y = 2	**V = 5**	**S = 8**	**P = 11**
X = 3	**U = 6**	**R = 9**	**O = 12**

Thus a cancellation such as **ZVY** reads as **152** [or January 1952], and **XVW** reads as **354 [** or March 1954]. This letter coding system using 5 mm. thin serifed Gothic letters in blue ink without a company code, lasted only until March 1954, when it was replaced by a number system.

PVY as **11-5-2**
for November 1952

OVY as **12-5-2**
for December 1952

XVX as **3-5-3**
for March 1953

--- the cancellation read horizontally upright - 17 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1952	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**PVY**	**OVY**
1953	ZVX	YVX	XVX	WVX	VVX	UVX	TVX	SVX	RVX	QVX	PVX	OVX
1954	ZVW	YVW	XVW	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The Budget of 1951 without changing the *excise duty* ($ 6.00 per thousand small cigarettes) had increased the still in force but no longer printed *excise tax* (now enforced by the *Excise Tax Act* - formerly called the *Special War Measures Act*) from $ 4.00 to $ 5.50 per thousand cigarettes.

However the 1952 Budget once again re-established the *excise tax* at $ 4.00 per thousand cigarettes, and the following Budget of 1953 while maintaining the same *excise tax*, reduced the *excise duty* on *small cigarettes* from $ 6.00 to $ 4.00 per thousand.

The Budget of 1953 reduced the *excise duty* from $6.00 to $4.00 per thousand cigarettes while maintaining the *excise tax* at $4.00 per thousand small cigarettes. The changes in the preceding coding format from **YVX** to XVX reflect these taxation alterations. The “Rock City” cancellation changed from using 3 mm. deep blue plain thin Gothic letters, to the use of 5 mm. deep blue serifed thin Gothic letters - **YVX** (for February) to XVX (for March) no doubt was used to indicate production using tax-paid stamps obtained under the 1953 reduced *excise duty* from $ 6.00 to $ 4.00 per thousand *small* cigarettes.

3 mm. **YVX** - February 1953

5 mm. XVX - March 1953

--- for sale in the Province of Quebec - 10 copies to date ---

XVX as **3-5-3** March 1953 - for Quebec usage

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1952	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1953	ZVX	YVX	XVX	WVX	VVX	---	TVX	SVX	---	---	---	---
1954	ZVW	YVW	XVW	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- RC-386a - 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1952 ---

The tax fluctuations resulted in various changes in the Rock City cancellations as reflected on the preceding page. Various old collections have established that **RC-398a** represents *Rock City / Carreras* production for 1952. It seems that Rock City’s addition of the 5 mm. black Roman **X** to **RC-386** was used to indicate production under the *excise tax* reduced 1952 Budget.

What was the purpose of the **X** overprint? Does it indicate stamps purchased under the 1951 Budget and thus precede the adoption of the foregoing letter coded cancellations on the 1952 “Rock City” production?

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1954-58 ---

Probably beginning in mid-April 1954, the preceding “Rock City” letter code was replaced by a three digit code likely reading *semi-monthly*, using a 5 mm. thin Gothic number *in blue ink* until **141**, and thence *in black ink*, with the “Quebec” series switching to *red ink numbers* at this same point in time.

--- in plain three digit numbers - 79 copies top date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1954	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	102	104	106	108	110	112	114	**---**
	---	**---**	**---**	101	103	105	107	109	111	113	**---**	**---**
1955	118	120	122	124	126	128	130	---	134	136	138	140
	119	121	123	125	127	129	131	133	135	137	139	141
1956	142	144	146	148	150	152	154	---	158	---	162	---
	143	---	147	149	151	153	155	---	---	---	163	---
1957	166	168	170	172	174	176	178	180	182	---	---	188
	167	169	171	173	175	177	179	181	183	---	187	---
1958	---	192	194	---	---	200	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	193	---	---	199	201	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1954-58 ---

Probably beginning in mid-April 1954, the preceding “Rock City” letter code was replaced by a three digit code likely reading *semi-monthly*, using a 5 mm. thin Gothic number *in blue ink* until **141**, and thence *in black ink*, with the “Quebec” series switching to *red ink numbers* at this same point in time.

--- with four vertical red dashed lines - 40 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1954	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	104	---	---	110	---	114	**---**
	---	---	---	101	103	105	---	---	---	---	115	---
1955	118	120	---	---	126	---	---	132	134	---	138	---
	119	---	123	---	---	---	---	133	135	---	---	---
1956	---	144	146	---	---	152	154	156	158	---	---	---
	---	---	147	149	---	---	155	---	---	161	---	---
1957	---	168	170	---	---	---	---	180	182	---	186	---
	167	---	171	173	---	---	---	---	183	---	---	---
1958	---	---	194	196	---	200	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	195	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

This ends the *Rock City / Carreras* date coding probably (if the numbers read *semi-monthly*) around June 1958. An old collection, sold by Erling many years ago, gave the date for 199 as May 1959. This and the other dates in the preceding list are possibly the package purchase dates. I have tried to work-out a *monthly* coding on the above numbers without much success - perhaps the numbers switched every ten days (or three times per month).

In 1957 the “Rothman Tobacco Group” obtained voting control of “Carreras U.K. Ltd.”, which held majority voting stock in “Rock City Tobacco”, and in December 1960 they purchased the “Rock City, Quebec” plant which became the Rothman subsidiary - “Rock City Tobacco Company (1960) Limited”.

The cancellations collected to date indicate that in January 1959 “Rock City Tobacco” adopted the *date coding system* of their parent company “Rothman of Pall Mall”, Toronto, although the succeeding “Rock City” cancellations naturally retain their proper Quebec company coding of [**6-13D**].

To date I have located no copies using the Rothman code system cancelled by Rock City with [**6-13D**] and dated for the latter part of 1958. Possibly the plant was closed for a conversion period prior to operation under Rothman control - more probably there is a flaw in my date calculation.

--- RC-386 - 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman” - three digits - 1959-61 ---

Late in 1957 “Rothman of Pall Mall” acquired control of “Rock City Tobacco” and in January 1959 Rock City’s numbering system switched (from the above three digit consecutive numbers) to the Rothman weekly three digit code - in which the ***first two numbers*** **give** ***the week*** of the year and the ***last digit provides the year***. Initially the numbers are unchanged in design, but by [459] they have been doubled (at the top and bottom), and finally upon reaching [529] the company code [6–13D] has been inserted at the center using a 3 mm. elite type face.

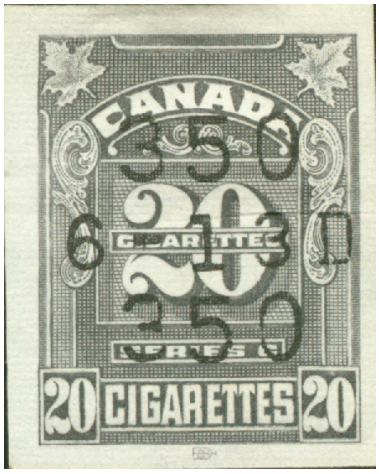
219 - May 1959 - [21st week]

459 - November 1959 - [45th week]

529 - December 1959 - [52nd week]

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 6 copies to date ---

1959	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	---	---	---	---	---	---	279	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	419	459	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	219	---	---	---	---	439	---	529
			---		---			---			---	



350 - August 1960 - 35th week

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 6 copies to date ---

1960												
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	020	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	380	420	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
			---		---			350			480	

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 3 copies to date ---

031 - January 1961 – 3rd week

1961	011	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	101	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	031	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
			---		---			---			---	

---

469 - November 1969 - 46th week

--- with four vertical red dashed lines - 3 copies to date ---

	Jan.	**Feb.**	**Mar.**	**Apr.**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**Aug.**	**Sep.**	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**
1959	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	379	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	469	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	399	---	---	---
			---		---			---			---	

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman” - two digits - 1962-67 ---

To date I have not located any examples cancelled in black ink after **381** for the 38th week of 1961. The sequence possibly runs to December 1961 at **521**, although a new Budget may have changed the coding in mid-stream. I have begun the following *monthly* series as if started at **11** in January 1962.

The new series begins in 1962 using the 3 mm. Roman wide spaced heavy company code **6 - 13 D** closer to the top of the stamp, above a two digit sequence in 5 mm. Gothic placed below center. These numbers apparently read weekly from **11** to **98** in an unbroken sequence. This series as listed below exists only on *Rothman / Rock City* [6-13D] production, and is not found on the *Rothman, Toronto* [12-50E] stamps.

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic number, and with a 3 mm. [6 - 13 D] at the top - 5 copies to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	**12**	---	---	---	---	---	---	**19**	---	---	---
1963	---	**24**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**32**	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	---	**77**	---	---	---	---	---

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic number, and with a 3 mm. [6 - 13 D] at the top - 4 copies to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	**22**
1963	---	---	**25**	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	**76**	**77**	---	--	---	---	---

Just as a guess, I think that the single number codes listed above were produced by “Rock City Tobacco” in Quebec City, and the double numbered series which follows were produced for “Rock City” by “Rothman Tobacco”.

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman” - two digits - 1962-69 ---

From **79** the numbers are doubled as in the following scans

--- with twin 4 mm. Gothic codes, and with a small centred 2 mm. Gothic [6-13D] - 33 copies to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	19	---	21	22
1963	23	---	25	26	---	28	29	30	31	32	---	---
1964	---	---	---	38	---	---	---	---	43	---	---	---
1965	---	---	49	---	---	52	---	---	--	---	57	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	79	---	---	82
1968	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
1969	95	96	97	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- with twin 4 mm. Gothic codes, and with a small centred 2 mm. Gothic [6-13D] - 4 copies to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	22
1963	---	---	25	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	76	77	---	--	---	---	---
1968	83	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman”, Quebec City, P.Q. - [6-13D] - 1969-74 ---

In 1969, initially using the imperforate Series “C” twenty cigarette stamp, “Rock City” begins a new code using a doubled 5 mm. date format and a central 3 mm. company code [**6-13D**]. The dating is based on the twelve letter monthly code-word **AMBIDEXTROUS**. To date I have listed only two examples of this code cancellation on **RC-386** - which are probably an end-of-run overlapping usage. During 1969, the new system using 4 mm. date coding continues onto the “Wings” Series **RC-815** with a centred but reversed 2 mm. company code [**13D-6**].

The early plain letter cancellations on the twenty cigarette Series “C” stamp are scarce but a more complete listing can be found on **RC-817**, the twenty-five cigarette stamp. I would guess that these few odd Series “C” were *end-of-line* and ran concurrently with the new “Wings” Series. The use of the “Wings” Series concluded when Ottawa ceased supplying its tax-paid stamps in August 1974.

coded **D / 6-13D** in May 1969

coded **O / 6-13D** in October 1969

--- in BLACK ink ---

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic letter, and with a 3 mm. [6 - 13 D] in the middle - 2 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	**D**	---	---	---	---	**O**	---	---

--- in QUEBEC RED ink ---

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic letter, and with a 3 mm. [6 - 13 D] in the middle - 1 copy as seen on eBay ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	--	---	X	---	---	--	---	---
1970	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1973	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1974	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The use of the “Wings” Series concluded in August 1974.

--- 20 “Wings” Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman”, Quebec City, P.Q. - [13D-6] - 1969-74 ---

★**RC-815** - 20 cigarettes, imperf, coded **U9** / **13D-6** November 1969

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic letter and number, and with a 2 mm. [13D-6] in the middle - 25 copies to date ---

[★RC-815]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	U9	---
1970	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	O7	U7	S7
1971	---	---	B1	---	---	---	---	---	R1	O1	---	---
1972	A2	---	---	I2	---	E2	X2	---	---	O2	U2	S2
1973	A3	M3	B3	I3	---	E3	---	---	---	---	U3	---
1974	---	---	B4	I4	D4	E4	X4	---	---	---	---	---

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic letter and number, and with a 2 mm. [13D-6] in the middle - 1 copy to date ---

★**RC-815** - 20 cigarettes, imperf, coded **S2** / **13D-6** in December 1972

[C-687]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	S2
1973	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1974	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 20 cigarettes \ 6-13D - 1951-74],
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